ANNUAL REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health

To the Thirsk Rural District Council, for the Year 1906.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report concerning the health and sanitary condition of the Thirsk Rural Sanitary District during the year 1906.

Although as compared with the last year we find the number of preventable diseases very much greater, it is very satisfactory to note that the death rate has not been affected by this cause.

In estimating the Death Rate and Birth Rate the calculations are based on the census of 1901, no allowance being made for any increase. The reason for doing so is justified by the fact that in the decade previous to 1901 it was found that there was no actual increase but rather the reverse. There is no reason to suppose that up to the present time there is any falling off in the migration of the rural population to the large towns.

It will be seen from the appended tables that "The Death Rate" for the whole year is 14.63 per thousand as against 11.24 for the previous year which is likewise the average rate for the years 1896 to 1905. The "Birth Rate" for the whole year is 25.49 per thousand of the population.

In the table dealing with the Causes of and Ages at Death we find Diseases of the Nervous System account for 25. Pneumonia 21, Heart Disease 19, Phthisis 15, Cancer 6, out of a total of 186 deaths. In respect of Age, 79 deaths occured at 65 years and upwards when natural decay would be an important factor in the cause. It is unsatisfactory to record the large number of deaths, namely 29, under one year of age. As in the previous year the chief causes affecting the health of the district were the zymotics; Measles, Scarlatina, Diptheria, Erysipelas, Enteric Fever, and Whooping Cough.

Measles. In the first quarter of the year Measles appeared in the Topcliffe and Thirsk Districts. Three deaths were recorded, one in the former and two in the latter district. It was found necessary to close the Topcliffe School on account of the epidemic and there was no further spread of the disease. In the second quarter of the year two cases were reported in Thirsk and two in Sowerby. In the third quarter three cases were reported. Two of the cases being school boys who contracted the disease at a school in Halifax and infected the third child. In the last quarter of the year a visitor from Hull introduced the disease into Sowerby and it spread rapidly to Thirsk and appeared in Bagby, Topcliffe, Dalton, and Felixkirk. 181 cases were reported and none were fatal.

Scarlatina. In Sowerby, cases of Scarletina were reported during the first three quarters of the year; one case proved fatal. These cases were connected with those reported in the last quarter of the last year, the disease had disappeared in the last quarter of the year as no case was reported. In Thirsk 5 cases were reported during the first three quarters of the year. In the last quarter of the year 9 cases appeared. Of these 9 cases 7 evidently contracted the disease in the "Shows" which take their stand in the Market Place, at the time of the Martinmas Hirings. In Thornton-le-Moor an outbreak of a mild type appeared in the third quarter. Several children in the desquamation stage of the disease were attending the village school. The school was closed for a period of four weeks. The disease was brought into the district by a child who had spent her holidays in a neighbouring town. Sporadic cases reported at South Otterington, Newby Wiske, Kepwick had received the infection outside the district.

Diphtheria. Seven cases were reported during the year. At the request of the Sanitary Authority a report on four of the cases and the measures adopted to prevent the further spread of the disease was presented to you in the second quarter of the year. Of these four, two cases had received infection outside the district. One, a school girl, evidently contracted the disease in Harrogate. The second case came from Romanby suffering from the disease. Insanitary conditions on the premises were responsible for the remaining cases. In both cases the drains in close proximity to the house were blocked. In a fifth case the drinking water was found to be polluted. In the sixth case the child had sat for some considerable time near a foul smelling sink. In the seventh case there was no apparent cause.

Enteric Fever. Three persons were affected during the year. In the second quarter of the year a fatal case was reported in Boltby. No cause was apparent. The sanitary conditions of the premises were good. No suspicion was attached to either the milk or water supply. In the third quarter one case was reported in Sowerby. Proper attention had not been paid to the drains on the premises. The Sanitary Inspector attended to the insanitary conditions which were remedied with the result that there was no spread of the disease. The third case was an epileptic. The boy in a convulsion had fallen into the water in the vicinity of a sewer and had swallowed a quantity of the water. No insanitary condition was found on the premises of the house.

Closure of Schools Eight schools were closed during the year for periods varying from three to four weeks. Topcliffe, St. Oswald's, Sowerby, In Thirsk, The National, The British and Foreign, The Infants, All Saints Roman Catholic were closed on account of the epedemic of Measles. Thornton-le-Moor on account of Scarlatina. Felixkirk owing to an outbreak of Impetigo Contagiosa. In dealing with the prevention of the spread of infectious disease I must urge upon the Authority the great need of an "Isolation Hospital". In many houses isolation is practically impossible. In two cases brought to my notice the want of such an institution caused great hardship by preventing the "breadwinners" following their usual occupation for a considerable time

House unfit for Human Habitation. In consequence of a complaint received a house in Humberton was inspected and found to be unfit fof human habitation. A report on the condition of the house was forwarded to the Council who dealt with the matter.

Overcrowding A case of overcrowding was reported in Skipton Bridge. The house when inspected was found to be clean and tidy and the number of inmates not excessive.

Unwholesome Meat The carcase of a beast on the premises of a slaughter house was reported as unfit for human consumption. When examined the flesh was found to be soft, purple and unfit for food. A magistrate inspected the carcase and an order was procured for its destruction, which order was carried out.

Water unfit for drinking purposes. The water of a well in Mowbray Place, Sowerby, on analysis was condemned as unfit for drinking purposes. A well at Greystone Lodge, Maunby, was likewise condemned. A supply was obtained from a fresh source.

Sewerage and Drainage. Attention has been given to the Drainage and Sewerage in the various localities. In South Otterington the drain in the back street leading to the school was relaid with 6 in. sanitary pipes. In Cowesby the main drain was extended 50 yards. In Birdforth a drain 205 yards in length was laid with 6 in. sanitary pipes. In Thirsk the drain in Jackson's Terrace was relaid with 8 in. sanitary pipes. Bacterial Tanks for the purification of the sewerage were built in Sowerby, The Holmes Norby, Sandhutton, and Birdforth. The Sewage system at Thornton-le-Moor is reported to be working satisfactorily. The tanks are now covered in and the sewage after treatment in these tanks is run on to gravel trenches through which it filters before finally being carried away. In July a report was desired by the Sanitary Authority on the "Pollution of the Codbeck by the sewage of Norby, Thirsk, and Sowerby". The effluents from these districts discharging into the Codbeck were inspected and in every case there was found to be little sediment near the outfall of the drains. The drains are well and regularly flushed. Dealing with the source and composition of the sewage we find that in Sowerby and Thirsk including Norby, there are 1183 inhabited houses (census 1901). Of these quite two thirds have dry closets and ashpits, the excreta and refuse being thus disposed of. The remaider of the houses are supplied with ordinary sanitary fittings. During the present year a sample of water was taken at a point about 5 miles below the town which on chemical analysis was found to be pure and fit for drinking purposes, thereby showing that whatever contamination takes place locally is quite inappreciable a comparitively short distance down the stream. Since the completion of this report a Bacterial Tank has been built in the Holmes through which the whole of the Norby sewage passes before entering the stream.

Concerning the scavenging of Thirsk and Sowerby the ashpits are cleaned out once in three months, schools and tenement yards are attended to each month.

Cases of infectious diseases are supplied with disinfectants.

Slaughter houses are kept in good order.

All Workshops, Workplaces, and Factories are complying with the requirements of the Factory Act.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops. The District Council at their meeting held on the 7th of January, 1907, made regulations under Article 13 of the Dairies Cowsheds and Milkshops Order of 1885 which will come into operation on the first day of May 1907.

58 inspections of different parts of the District were made during the year.

Signed,

WALTER I. BUCHANAN,

February 28th, 1907. Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1906 and previous Years.

THIRSK RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Net deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
				Under 1 year of age		At all Ages.						
		No.	Rate*	No.	Rate per 100 births registered.	No.	Rate*				No.	Rate*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1896	12016	317	24·35	28	88·32	167	12.83	...	...	...	167	12·83
1897	13016	321	24·66	29	90·34	185	14·21	...	...	...	185	14·21
1898	13016	309	23·74	44	142·39	204	15·67	14	...	...	204	15·67
1899	13016	327	25·12	36	110·09	207	15·90	9	...	...	207	15·90
1900	13016	335	25·73	38	113·43	204	15·67	7	...	...	204	15·67
1901	12710	293	23·05	33	112·62	182	14·31	7	...	...	182	14·31
1902	12852	298	23·18	38	127·57	150	11·67	11	...	...	150	11·67
1903	13015	328	25·20	27	82·31	166	12·75	5	...	2	166	12·75
1904	13061	301	23·04	49	162·79	198	15·15	12	...	...	198	15·15
1905	13102	309	24·30	28	90·61	180	14·24	12	...	...	180	14·24
Averages for years 1896-1905	12982	313·8	24·23	35·0	112·04	184·3	14·24	9·62	...	...	184·3	14·24
1906	12710	324	25·49	29	89·506	186	14·63	6	...	1	187	14·71

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water). 64,024.

Total population at all ages, 12,710
Number of inhabited houses, 2,855
Average number of persons per house, 4·45
} At Census of 1901.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District—Leeds General Infirmary.

Is the Union Workhouse within the District?—Yes.

TABLE II.

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1906 and previous years.

THIRSK RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Names of Localities.	1.—THIRSK.				2.—TOPCLIFFE.				3.—SUTTON.				4.—KNAYTON.				5.—PICKHILL.			
year	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
	a	b	c	d	a	b	c	d	a	b	c	d	a	b	c	d	a	b	c	d
1896	6584	157	104	18	1590	69	22	3	1156	28	16	3	1622	33	17	4	1236	30	0	...
1897	6584	192	104	19	1590	56	26	2	1156	19	13	1	1622	32	15	2	1236	22	5	...
1898	6935	170	121	29	2140	82	43	12	1156	16	16	1	1957	41	24	2				
1899	6935	195	133	25	2140	75	43	7	1156	31	10	1	1957	36	21	3				
1900	6935	199	100	21	2140	76	49	8	1156	18	30	3	1957	42	24	6				
1901	7055	162	105	22	2798	57	37	4	1029	27	17	3	1828	47	23	4				
1902	7145	175	97	29	2835	77	26	6	1027	14	10	0	1851	35	17	3				
1903	7229	198	92	15	2876	74	41	7	1051	18	15	2	1861	38	18	3				
1904	7236	163	126	36	2930	83	29	7	1051	21	14	2	1877	34	21	4				
1905	7240	190	106	19	2934	70	37	4	1051	21	18	3	1877	28	19	2				
Averages for years 1896-1905.	6987.8	176·1	108·8	23·3	2397·3	71·9	35·3	6·0	1098·9	21·3	15·9	1·9	1840·9	36·6	19·9	3·3				
1906	8272	208	111	15	2798	85	53	12	1640	31	21	2								

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1906.

THIRSK RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in whole District.							Total cases notified in each Locality.		
	At all ages.	At Ages--Years.								
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15-25	25-65	65 and upwards	THIRSK 1	TOP-CLIFFE 2	SUTTON 3
Diphtheria	7	...	2	3	1	1	...	5	2	...
Erysipelas	5	1	...	...	...	4	...	4	1	...
Scarlet Fever	46	...	8	30	7	1	...	42	4	...
Enteric Fever	3	...	...	...	2	1	...	2	...	1
Measles	232	8	82	132	5	5	...	203	28	1
Whooping Cough	4	...	4	...	...	...	...	4	...	...
Total	297	9	96	165	15	12		260	35	2

Isolation Hospital none.

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1906.

THIRSK RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Causes of Death.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District,							Deaths at all ages of "Residents" belonging to Localities, whether occurring in or beyond the district			Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Public Institutions in the district
	All ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	THIRSK	TOP-CLIFFE	SUTTON	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Measles	4	1	2	...	...	1	...	2	2	...	...
Scarlet Fever	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Diphtheria and membranous Croup	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Enteric Fever	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Puerperal Fever... ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Erysipelas	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Other septic diseases ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Phthisis, (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	15	...	1	2	3	9	...	9	6	...	2
Other tubercular diseases	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	6	...	...	...	...	1	5	4	2	...	...
Bronchitis	14	3	...	...	...	2	9	8	3	3	...
Pneumonia	21	2	3	...	1	6	9	16	4	1	...
Premature Birth... ...	9	9	...	...	...	...	...	2	7	...	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...
Heart Diseases	19	...	...	...	...	7	12	10	5	4	1
Accidents...	4	...	...	1	2	1	...	1	3	...	...
Suicides	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Diseases of Nervous system	25	...	1	1	2	6	15	15	6	4	1
Diseases of Digestive organs	14	2	...	...	1	5	6	11	1	2	1
Senile Decay...	17	...	...	...	...	...	17	11	6	...	...
All other causes	27	11	1	2	...	7	6	16	6	5	1
All causes.	186	29	9	10	10	49	79	112	53	21	6

TABLE V.

THIRSK RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1906.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-4 Months	4-5 Months	5-6 Months	6-7 Months	7-8 Months	8-9 Months	9-10 Months	10-11 Months	11-12 Months	Total deaths under 1 year
ALL CAUSES.																	
Certified																	
Uncertified																	
i. Common Infectious Diseases																	
Measles	...	..	...	..	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
ii. Wasting Diseases:																	
Premature Birth ...	7	...	..	..	7	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ...	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	.	..	..	..	4
iii, Tuberculous Diseases:																	
Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tabes Mesenterica	...	..	..	..	...	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
iv. Other causes:																	
Erysipelas... ...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Convulsions	...	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	1	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	7
Bronchitis	...	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	3
Pneumonia	...	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	...	..	..	2
Other Causes ...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
	8	..	..	..	8	4	5	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	..	29

Population, estimated to middle of 1906,—12,710.
Births in the year: Legitimate 305; Illegitimate 19.
Deaths in the year of Legitimate infants 22; Illegitimate infants 7.
Deaths from ALL CAUSES at ALL AGES, 186.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries)—Inspections 4; Written Notices, none; Prosecutions, none.

WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries)—Inspections 4; Written Notices, none; Prosecutions, nonc.

Total Inspections 8.

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts; and Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act: None.

3.—HOME WORK. Outworkers' Lists, Section 107.

Nature of Work.—Wearing Apparel making, &c.

Lists received from Employers twice in the year—Lists 4; Outworkers 4.

Lists received from Employers once in the year—Lists 2; Outworkers 2.

Number of Inspections of Outworkers' premises 2.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS, 67

5.—OTHER MATTERS. Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories, None.